

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

**1. Name of Property**historic name Streett, Col. John, Houseother names/site number HA-1517**2. Location**street & number Holy Cross Road N/A not for publication  
city, town Street ☒ vicinity  
state Maryland code MD county Harford code 025 zip code 21154**3. Classification**

## Ownership of Property

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

## Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

## Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>  </u> sites
<u>  </u>	<u>  </u> structures
<u>  </u>	<u>1</u> objects
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/ANumber of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register 0**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

*file*  
*to be signed as*  
*part of* ~~*nom*~~ *revised*  
*form*  
*HA-1517*

## SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90001022

Date Listed: 7/16/90

Col. John Streett House  
Property Name

Harford  
County

MD  
State

Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*for* Patrick Andrews  
Signature of the Keeper

7/16/90  
Date of Action

=====

### Amended Items in Nomination:

This property is nominated under National Register Criterion B for its association with John Streett, but there is no Area of Significance provided to reflect his importance. Ron Andrews with the MD SHPO says that Politics is the appropriate Area of Significance. The form is now officially amended to include this information.

### DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

**6. Function or Use**

HA-1517

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/work in progress

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls brick

roof slate

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Colonel John Streett House stands on a slight rise in the midst of a large, open field on the north side of Holy Cross Road just east of Deer Creek. The house is composed of three sections, two of which are original and one a late 19th-century addition; all are brick. The original c. 1805 dwelling consists of a 2 1/2-story, five bay, gable roofed main section and a two-story, two-bay attached kitchen. South facades on both sections are laid in Flemish bond with beaded mortar joints. The main section has a through center stair hall separating two equal-sized rooms (each with a flush, gable-end chimney); the plan is identical on all stories. The kitchen wing has two unequal-sized rooms on the ground floor and a large loft room above, reached by a closed, corner stair. Interior finishing is of excellent quality and is also remarkably well preserved and unaltered. Notable features are the six-panel doors (complete with architrave molding and backband), paneled jambs, chair rails, dining room and second-story bedroom cupboards, and four excellent mantles, at least one of which retains its original gray marblizing. Several doors also retain their original mahogany-grained finish and brass hardware.

**8. Statement of Significance**

HA-1517

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locallyApplicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1805-1834

Significant Dates

c. 180518141834

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Streett, Col. John

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

**SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:**

The Colonel John Streett House is important for its architecture and for its association with Colonel Streett (1762-1837), a man prominent in local politics and a hero of the War of 1812. Architecturally, the house is among Harford County's best and most intact examples of Federal style. While not as ambitious as the extremely elegant Sion Hill (HA-525) it is locally comparable in scale and material to the main section of Olney (HA-154; National Register) although the Streett house is arguably a better representative of the Federal era than Olney since it remains virtually unchanged and intact while the 1810 portions of Olney are overshadowed by later, even grander additions which make that slightly eccentric house truly sui generis. Moreover, the details of the Streett house -- such as the marblized mantles and grained doors -- are unsurpassed in the county. Historically Colonel Streett, the builder of this house was a prominent man in Harford County. He came from a family of landowners and farmers who remained for generations influential in Harford and Baltimore counties' political affairs. Streett himself ran a 3,000-acre estate, one of the largest estates in the county at the time. He secured a distinguished political career by serving in the Maryland Legislature for nearly a quarter of a century including twelve consecutive terms. Colonel Streett occupied the house until 1834.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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- C. Milton Wright, Our Harford Heritage, (Bel Air: Privately printed, 1967).
- Walter W. Preston, History of Harford County, (Baltimore; The Sun Book Company, 1901)
- Frederick Lee Cobourn and Brodnax Cameron, Sr., Portraits of the Court House, (Bel Air; Privately printed, 1942).
- Land and Probate Records of Harford County, Court House, Bel Air.
- Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties - Harford County, Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD.

☐ See continuation sheet**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of property approximately 3 acresUSGS quad: Fawn Grove, MD/PA**UTM References**A 

1	8	3	7	6	9	5	0	4	3	9	0	5	3	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

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☐ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary consists of a rectangle formed by lines parallel to the gross footprint of the house. On the east, north, and west sides, the line is 100' from the building. On the south, the line is 300'.

☐ See continuation sheet**Boundary Justification**

The boundary was drawn to maintain the flat rural setting of the property which is the historic character but to eliminate the vast open acreage surrounding the house which contains no contributing resources. There are no obvious historic or natural boundaries. The drive is non-historic.

☐ See continuation sheet**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title	Christopher Weeks, Preservation Planner	date	November 30, 1989
organization	Harford County Government	telephone	301-879-2000, ext. 207
street & number	220 South Main Street	state	Maryland
city or town	Bel Air	zip code	21014

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Colonel John Streett House, abandoned for 40 years, stands unoccupied in a large open field on the north side of Holy Cross Road, just east of Deer Creek, in the rural northern section of Harford County, Maryland. The house faces south and consists of four sections, all of brick on low fieldstone foundations: the 2 1/2-story main (west) and attached two-story kitchen sections are original and date to c. 1805; there are two late-19th-century, two-story, shed-roofed additions to the rear (north); the house, remarkably intact and well-preserved despite its long years of neglect, is about to undergo a complete restoration during which the rear additions will be removed. Similarly, one late-19th-century owner spanned the south facade of the main section and kitchen wing with a one-story porch; it has recently been removed and the brick will be repaired.

Both the south (main) and west facades of the original house's main block are laid in Flemish bond with exquisitely beaded mortar joints. This block measures 46' 7" by 22' 3" and is five bays wide and two deep beneath a slate covered gable roof. The cornices of the main facade and of the rear facade are notable, being corbeled and of molded brick, a treatment exceedingly rare in Harford

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.2

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County. There is a centrally placed, eight-panel door with a three-light transom; all windows (five on the second story, four on the first) are regularly placed and have 6/6 panes with jack arches; nearly all framing is original although the frames have been removed for restoration and the window spaces boarded over. The three-bay 24' by 17'4" kitchen wing (attached to the east wall of the main section, see plan) has a Flemish bond main (south) facade with a corbeled brick cornice.

The interior of the main block has a through center stair hall dividing twin parlors, each with a gable-end fireplace. The high-ceilinged rooms (roughly 10 feet) abound in original details remarkable for their sophistication and state of preservation. These include six-panel doors complete with architraves and backboards, chair rails, dining room cupboard, and stair rail and turned balusters. Floors, walls, and ceilings are also intact. The graceful open string stairway is largely intact, although vandals have recently pulled some of the railing apart. (The pieces remain and will be repaired.) Perhaps this superb house's best features are to be seen on the interior; these certainly include the doors, stained and grained to resemble mahogany and complete with their original brass hardware; further, all mantles are well proportioned and at least one has its original bluish-gray marblizing. The

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center hall plan and the integrity of detailing are repeated on all other stories; the attic floor is of interest: it is entirely covered in plaster, some two inches thick.

Set back about six feet from the main block, the kitchen wing has two unequal sized room on the ground floor and a single bedroom above, reached by a corner winder stair. The large cooking fireplace is centered in the east wall and is crowned with a segmental arch formed by a double row of header bricks. The chimney is flush with the exterior wall.

Restoration architect James Wollon, AIA, inspected the house and grounds in November 1973, shortly after the present owner acquired the property, and determined that "the south front lawn, now a pasture, was shaped with a definite curving fall defining a terrace on which the house is built, with a set of stone steps down to the fall on axis with the house." <sup>1</sup> The steps are still in place--although in a sorry state of repair--but it is difficult to discern the other

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1

Report by James Wollon, AIA, on file at the Harford County Department of Planning and Zoning, Bel Air.

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.4



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landscape features, although such details would have been in keeping with the sophistication evinced in the house itself. It is certainly not unreasonable to suppose that the taste that created the grained doors and marblized mantles would have demanded a garden designed and planted to complement the architecture. The house is now approached off-axis from the west by means of a rutted farm road.

Also included on the property are a circa 1900 frame barn and a metal mobile home. Both resources do not contribute to the significance of the property.

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.5

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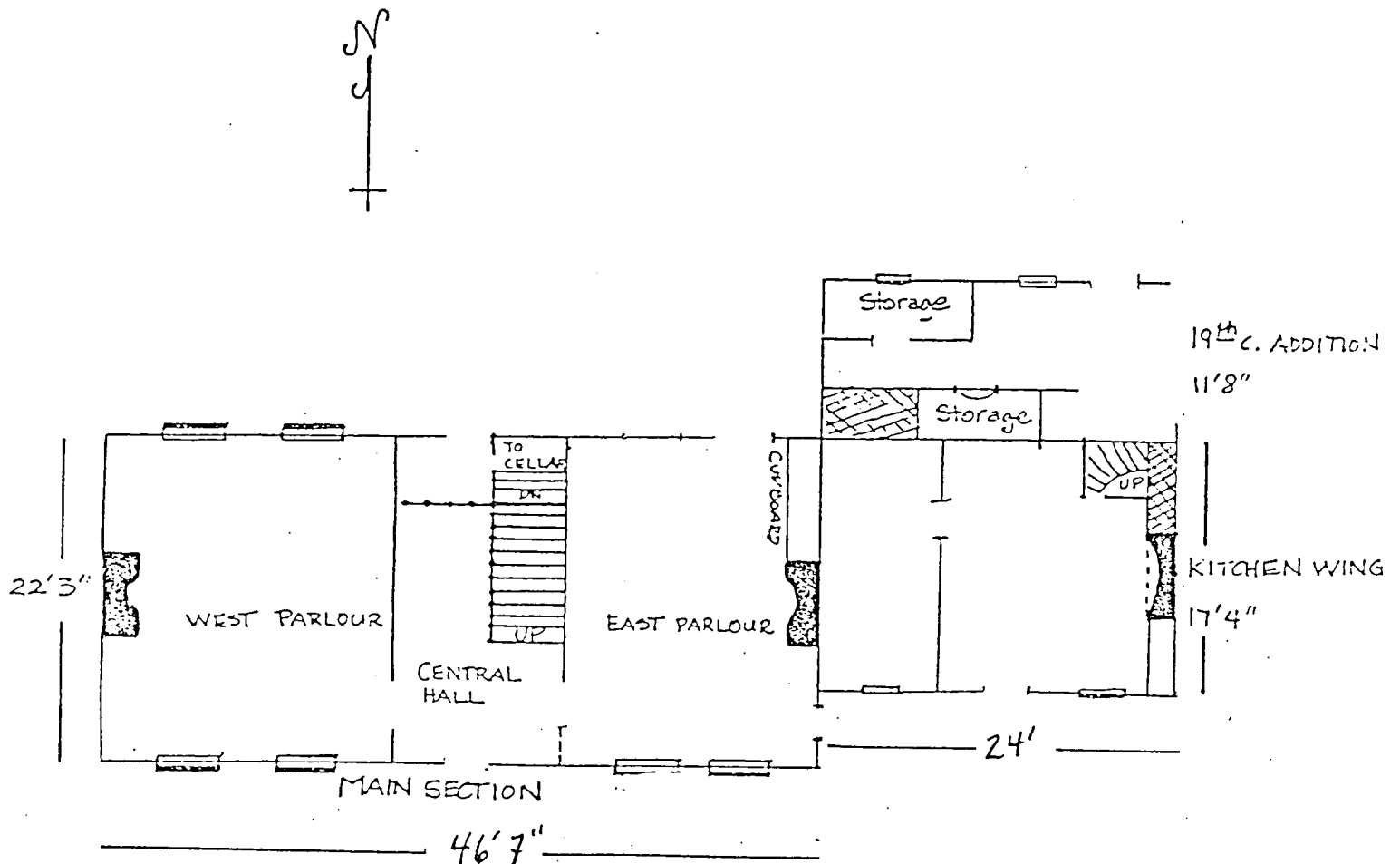
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First Floor Plan

1989



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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Periods:

Rural Agrarian Intensification	A.D. 1680-1815
Agricultural-Industrial Transition	A.D. 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning  
Government/Law

Resource Type:

Category: building

Historic Environment: rural

Historic Functions and Uses: DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Known Design Source: none

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.2

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Street, Colonel John, House  
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HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Colonel John Streett was a son of Thomas Streett, who emigrated to what is now Harford County from England in the early 18th century. Thomas amassed large landholdings--roughly 1500 acres<sup>2</sup> -- in the still-unsettled northern reaches of the county including his 1759 patent for 700 acres called "Street's Hunting Ground." It was on this tract that John Streett was born in 1762.<sup>3</sup> Streett seems to have embarked on a farming career and began acquiring land in his own right; by the time of the Federal Direct Tax of 1798, he had put together by purchase and patent 1320 acres. (He would inherit Thomas's holdings in 1823.) He was then cited as living in an "11 x 28 1-story house, wood." In 1801 he purchased the land--then unimproved--on which he would build this house.<sup>4</sup>

In 1786 John Streett had married Martha St. Clair, and both surnames are perpetuated in the area: note St. Clair Bridge over

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<sup>2</sup> 1798 Federal Direct Tax, typescript on file with Planning and Zoning.

<sup>3</sup> C. Milton Wright, Our Harford Heritage, (Bel Air, Privately Printed, 1967), pp. 84, 86, 89, 226.

<sup>4</sup> Harford County Deed Book JLGP Page 540.

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Deer Creek (roughly 1000 yards from the John Streett house) and the post office hamlet of Streett (zip code 21154).

John Streett's vast landholdings naturally thrust him into a leadership role in the county; he regularly served throughout the '90s on the county Grand Jury<sup>5</sup> and it was almost inevitable that he should eventually enter politics, which he did and was elected to represent Harford County in the Maryland legislature in 1799. He was re-elected continuously. In 1811 the Bel Air Academy was incorporated as the county's first school; its first Board of Trustees was appointed in 1812, and John Streett was among them.<sup>6</sup> The Academy's "curriculum was soundly classical following the traditional American practice for college-bound boys" and, thanks at least to Streett and the other trustees, the school "produced some of Harford County's most prominent citizens."<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Walter W. Preston, History of Harford County, (Baltimore: The Sun Book Company, 1901), pp. 84, 86, 89, 226.

<sup>6</sup> Preston, Harford, p. 276.

<sup>7</sup> Marilyn M. Larew, Bel Air: The Town Through its Buildings, (Bel Air: Town of Bel Air, 1981), pp. 28-29.

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When the War of 1812 broke out, Streett resigned his seat in the legislature and joined the army, "commissioned as Lieutenant Colonel of the 7th Regiment of Cavalry,"<sup>8</sup> which was made up of men from Harford and Baltimore counties.<sup>9</sup> After taking Washington, the British moved on Baltimore in September, 1814. To save the city "a call was made for troops from the surrounding counties. Colonel Streett marched with his cavalry from Harford County to the defence of that city, and served with the brigade of cavalry at North Point,"<sup>10</sup> there "joining Howard's troop from Baltimore County."<sup>11</sup> The British invasion of Baltimore was two-pronged and amphibious; the Battle of North Point halted it on land just as Fort McHenry halted it on water; Colonel Streett's action at that crucial time resulted in his being "commended by Major General Smith for his bravery and efficiency in action."<sup>12</sup> The commendation reads: "Fatiguing as were the duties imposed on the United States Cavalry

<sup>8</sup>  
Wright, Harford, p. 421.

<sup>9</sup>  
Frederick Lee Cobourn, Brodnax Cameron, Sr., et al., A Short Biography of Those Whose Portraits Adorn the Walls of the Court House, Bel Air, (Bel Air: Harford County Bar Association, 1942), p. 51.

<sup>10</sup>  
Preston, Harford, P. 226.

<sup>11</sup>  
Cobourn and Cameron, Portraits, p. 51.

<sup>12</sup>  
Wright, Harford, p. 421.

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under Lieutenant Street [sic], they were performed with alacrity  
and promptness highly honorable to officers and men." <sup>13</sup> Peace  
secured, Streett retired to his Harford County estate and spent  
his remaining years farming and bringing up his brood of nine  
children. He was also re-elected<sup>14</sup> as a member of the General  
Assembly.

It is certain that Streett built this house around 1805. He bought  
the land the house is on from one Nathan Smith on November 17,  
1801; Smith had patented the vacant land in 1795. <sup>15</sup> By the time of  
the 1814 Tax, Street was listed as being worth \$20,662 with a  
two-story house measuring 42' by 21' and a kitchen and these  
dimensions corresponds nicely with those of the existing house,  
i.e., 46' by 22', plus kitchen. Streett sold the house and 300  
acres ("which forms the farm on which the said John Streett now  
resides" and is the "same and all" as the land Streett bought from

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13

Cobourn and Cameron, Portraits, p. 51. See also an article in the  
August 23, 1989 AEgis on "Harford's Colonel John Street was a Hero in War  
of 1812."

14

Cobourn and Cameron, Portraits, p. 51.

15

Patent recorded in the Maryland Hall of Records, Annapolis.

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16  
Nathan Smith in 1801) to his son Abraham in 1834 thus ending its  
period of significance.

Many local historians have commented on the fact that Streett's  
house dates to his years of service in the state legislature, and  
attribute the house's high style and "sophisticated details" (in  
architect James Wollon's words) to influences Streett would have  
experienced "in the fashionable city of Annapolis."  
17

He certainly wouldn't have drawn inspiration from his rural and  
remote Harford County neighbors. The grander 18th-century houses in  
the county, i.e., the better known grand center-hall houses such as  
Sion Hill (c. 1795; HA-525) and Sophia's Dairy (1769; HA-5;  
National Register), were both near navigable water and important  
ports (Havre de Grace and Bush, respectively) making importation of  
fashionable designs easy while the Streett house is far inland:  
Streett almost had to have drawn inspiration first-hand from his  
travels. Further, those earlier houses have a monumentality that is

16

Harford County deed HD17/262.

17

Natalie Shivers, Historic Sites Survey Form for the Streett House,  
March 1980.

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.7



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quite different from the Streett house's attenuated proportions; moreover, neither can match the Streett house's grained doors and marblized mantles.

Nor do any of the county's smaller colonial-era dwellings such as the Rigbie House (c. 1750; HA-4; National Register) and Joshua's Meadows (standing by 1747; HA-356; National Register) resemble the Streett house: their scale is too diminutive; their plans are too "folk"; their masonry lacks flourishes such as the Streett house's beaded mortar joints.

Olney (referred to above) when built was similar in scale and material but the present Olney is the product of several remodelings and enlargements. Oak Farm (1821; HA-149; National Register) and Woodside (1823; HA-693; National Register) are later, smaller, and of stone. (It should be pointed out that Woodside, in its baseboards, boasts the county's only other known example of Federal marblizing.) The frame Mount Adams (HA-1074; 1817; National Register) was built by Streett's fellow War-of-1812-hero, Captain John Adams Webster but in plan and construction it lacks any attempt at the high style Street achieved in his house.

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.8

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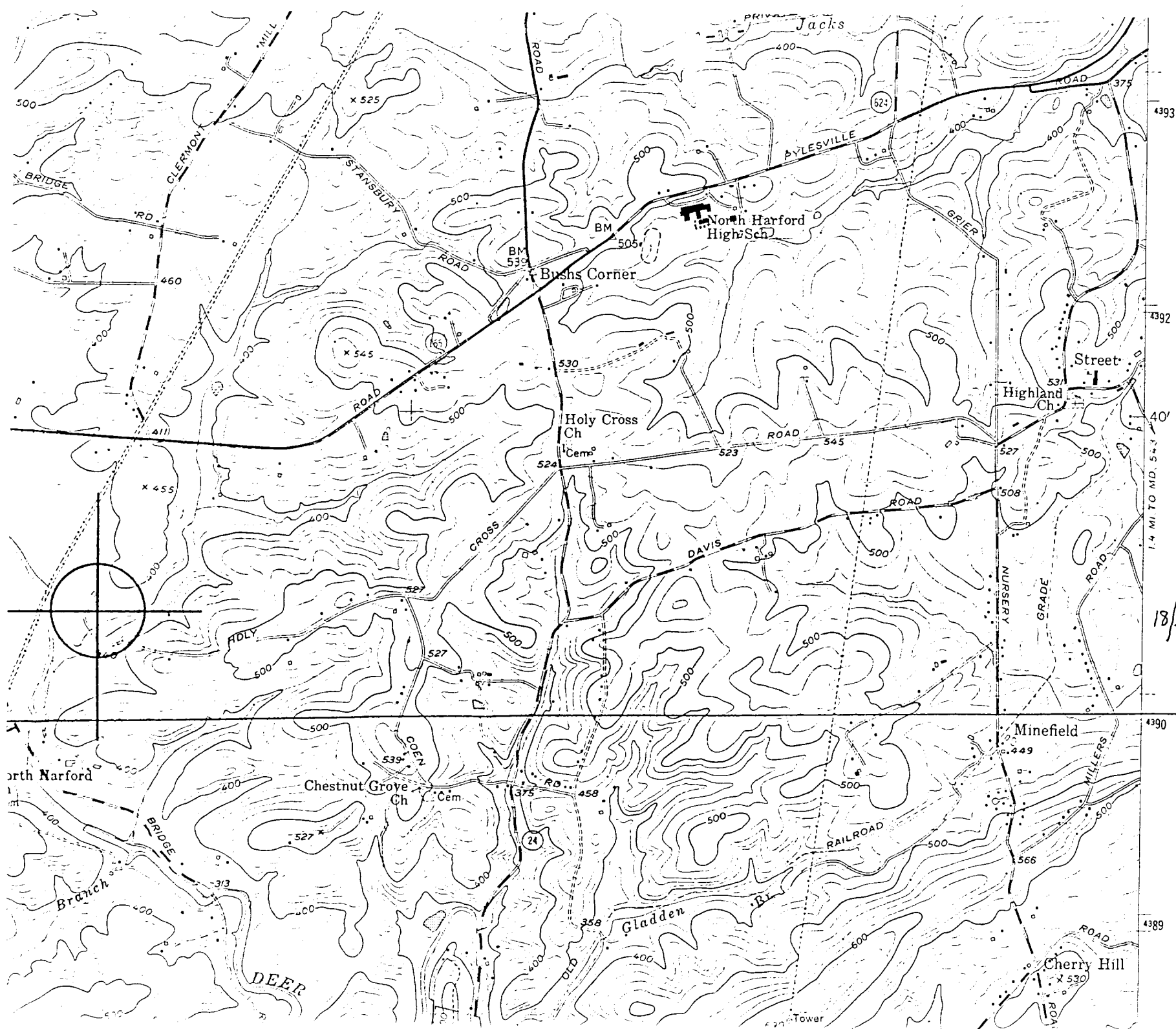
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Colonel John Street's son, Abraham, died in 1867 and his children had to resort to an equity case to divide the property. The Colonel John Streett House--called "the Home Farm" in the case<sup>18</sup>--managed to remain in the Streett family until 1955, when Joseph M. Streett sold the 276-acre farm to Bower C. and Floretta T. Reeves; the<sup>19</sup> Reeves' son and daughter-in-law acquired the property in 1972 and are planning the important yet little-known house's long overdue restoration.

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<sup>18</sup> Harford County Equity Case #1815.

<sup>19</sup> Deed HDC915/848.



Streett, Col.  
John, House

HA-1517

Harford Co.  
Maryland

18/376950/4390530

## SUMMARY

HA-1517

Colonel John Streett House  
Street, Maryland

Probably built by Colonel John Street in the first quarter of the 19th century, the Georgian style and sophisticated architectural details of this house reflect Streett's considerable acquaintance with Annapolis. Streett was a representative in the state legislature from 1799 until 1811 as well as a much-heralded local military hero, who distinguished himself particularly in the Battle of North Point in the War of 1812. Streett's 300 acre farm made up of the tracts "Clermont" and "Valencienne" also gave him status as one of the County's most prosperous farmers.

By its association with Colonel Streett, the magnificence of the site (still 265 acres) and the quality of the structure itself, the house is certainly worthy of being on the National Register. The brick construction, corbelled brick cornice, center hall plan, and elegant Federal Mantelpieces distinguish this building from most of its peers in the area. Although in extremely dilapidated condition, the house has suffered no vandalism and surprisingly little damage to its fabric; its owners intend to restore it.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**HISTORIC  
Colonel John Streett House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

(North side of Holy Cross Road, west of Md. Rte 24, on east side of Deer Creek)

CITY, TOWN

Street

X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES RESTRICTED☐ YES UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. &amp; Mrs. James B. Reeves

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

27 Chestnut Hill Road

CITY, TOWN

Forest Hill

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

21050

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

66-1517

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☒ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the north side of Holy Cross Road, west of Md. Rte. 24 & on the east side of Deer Creek, the house, which faces south, is a two-story, gable-roofed brick structure set on a low stone foundation. It is composed of four sections: the main or west, five by two bay section, measures 46'7" by 22'3" and is flanked on the east by a 24' by 17'4" kitchen wing that appears to be of the same time period as the main section. The north facade comprises two late 19th century additions, an 11'8" by 24' section that spans the entire back of the kitchen wing and a 16'11" by 17'1" addition that covers only the two easterly bays of the main section and projects approximately 5'3" out from the other addition.

The masonry work, among other features of this house, is distinctive and indicates that the owner/builder of the home could afford to employ better craftsmen. The west and south walls of the main section and the south wall of the kitchen wing are laid in Flemish bond. Other walls of the house are laid in common bond with randomly placed header courses and glazed bricks. The cornices on the north and south facades are unusual being of corbeled, molded brick. The window cornices are also of corbeled brick topped with brick "jack" arches. Interior brick chimneys are located in both ends of the main section, the east end of the kitchen wing, and the east and west ends of the later additions.

Main Section Exterior: The south facade of the five-bay main section has a central entrance with a three-light transom window over the eight-panel front door. A slate, shed-roofed porch spans the length of the first-story facade. The fenestration of the second story features five windows with the above-mentioned corbeled brick and "jack" arch features. Two small 2/2 windows are the only features in the east and west facades.

The three westerly bays of both stories of the north facade (not altered by the 5ft. projecting 19th century addition) feature the same window treatments as the south facade.

The door and window located in the 1st and 2nd story, respectively, of the westernmost bay are set lower in the facade than the other windows.

Kitchen Wing Exterior: The south facade of the three-bay kitchen wing has a center bay entrance under the shed-roof porch that protects this facade. The kitchen wing is set back from the main section approximately six feet, hence this porch is not connected with the porch on the main section but rather with the east wall of the main section. The westerly bays of both stories feature small rectangular windows of unknown function. The second story window has five vertical wooden bars, which resemble bars of a jail cell. There was no corresponding interior detail to indicate the purpose of this feature so its function remains a mystery to this writer. Another such opening, but with only two bars, is set in the east facade of this wing below two, 2/2 gable windows.

(continued)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Col. John Streett was a local military hero, noted particularly for his performance in the battle of North Point in the War of 1812. Representative to the state legislature twelve times between 1799 and 1811,<sup>1</sup> John Streett, son of Thomas Streett, Sr., was also a prominent farmer in Harford County.

The Streett family owned a considerable amount of land in Harford County; John himself having acquired 3,000 acres by his return from the War of 1812. This large amount of property was acquired piecemeal from many different people thus making it difficult to state definitely upon which tract of land the house is located. Indeed, it is even more difficult to ascertain exactly who built the house.

John Streett purchased two tracts of land, "Clermont" (200 acres) and a part of "Valencienne" (103 1/4 acres), from Nathan Smith in 1801.<sup>2</sup> By the tax list of 1798, Nathan Smith had a 14' by 16', one-story house and a 12' by 16' kitchen on a tract called "Clay Mount Valencienne."<sup>3</sup> Thomas Streett, Sr. only had a 14' by 18', one-story, one by four light structure; John, his son, only had an 11' by 28', one-story wooden structure, so the house in question was probably not built by his father, Thomas by 1798.<sup>4</sup> By 1814, according to the tax assessment list for that year, a certain John Streett had several tracts and many buildings valued at \$20,662.\* The only other member of his family listed that could have perhaps built the house was David Streett, his brother. The assessment lists him as having 105 1/4 acres called "Addition to Deserted Lot" with a two-story 42' by 21' brick dwelling and a 12' by 18' kitchen with seven outbuildings.<sup>5</sup> The measurements do not correspond to those of the "Col. John Streett House." It is located in the right area, but it does not seem that the tract name would have been changed because the tract names "Clermont" and "Valenciennes" were designated on the Maryland land patent granted to Nathan Smith in 1792 and 1795, respectively.<sup>6</sup>

In summary, it is probable that Col. John Streett built this house in the period between 1801 and 1814 or so. He acquired the land soon after he was elected to the Maryland legislature in 1799, thus he would have spent considerable time in the fashionable city of Annapolis, Maryland, and as indicated by the amount of property he acquired, he would probably have accumulated enough wealth to build such an elegant home.

\*The dwelling mentioned is an "old log" house, 18' X 18'. Thomas Street, Sr., is listed as having 659 acres of "Streets Pleasant Hills," but the only dwelling recorded is a 16' X 35' log house built in 1754 on the tract "Rockridge."

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued)

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land, Will & Equity Records of Harford County  
 Milton C. Wright, Our Harford Heritage  
 Maryland Tax Lists, 1798 & 1814

(continued)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Diane Barnard / Natalie Shivers

ORGANIZATION

Harford County Historic District Commission

DATE

3/80

STREET &amp; NUMBER

45 South Main Street

TELEPHONE

838-6000, X207

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air, MD

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438



Colonel John Streett House  
7. Description

Continuation Sheet #1

A view of the original north facade of the kitchen wing is not possible because of the 19th century addition that spans the entire length of the wing.

19th Century Addition to Kitchen Wing (North Facade) The irregular fenestration and additions of the north facade are the only blurs on the relatively balanced appearance of the rest of the dwelling. A slate, shed-roofed porch attached to the addition covers a rear entrance to the east section of the house. The porch spans the westerly section of the addition but leaves one bay of both stories exposed. Probably the latest addition, its condition and state of alterations leave little worth describing.

19th Century Addition to the Main Section (North Facade) This section is a shed-roofed structure that has a more regular, balanced fenestration than that of the previously-described addition. The east bays are six panel doors, the top door once opening into a balcony, as indicated by the plate and joist marks on the outside of the building. The fenestration features the same corbeled brick cornice with jack arch as on the main section and kitchen wing. By comparison, the addition to the back of the kitchen wing is the only section of the house that does not feature corbeled brick or jack arches.

Main Section Interior The main section interior has a central hall plan. The original interior trim is almost all intact and unaltered including six-paneled doors, complete architrave trim with backband around all doors and windows, paneled door jambs, chair rails, and a three-story open string staircase with landings.

The west parlour has a simple architrave molded chair rail running along the four walls. The elegant "McIntire" style mantel piece, on a projecting chimney breast opposite the doorway, echoes the simplicity of the chair rail.

Although the fireplaces of the parlors are mirror images of each other, the east parlor fireplace is flanked on the south by a door opening onto the kitchen wing porch and on the north by a cupboard, the inside of which has retained its original locks and imitation mahogany graining. Between this cupboard on the parlor's east wall and another cupboard of the same type on the north wall, there is a door leading into the north addition to the main section.

The three-landing staircase with turned balusters in the central hall leads to the three bedrooms on the second floor of the main section and, in turn, to the third floor attic. There is a small bedroom at the top of the stairs with a larger one on either side of the landing. The west bedroom has the same type of chair rail molding and mahogany grained doors as the parlor cupboards downstairs, but the fireplace here is one of the most handsome in the house. Still of the "McIntire" style, it is marbleized in a blueish-grey color.

Colonel John Streett House  
7. Description

Continuation Sheet #2

The east bedroom is more simple with a fireplace flanked by cupboards on both sides. A chair rail encircles this room also.

Interiors of 19th Century Additions and Kitchen Wing The addition on the north facade of the main section may be reached from the east parlour as described previously. The interior of this section as compared to its exterior suggests that it may have been remodeled after its construction. On the west wall, there is a mid-19th century wood mantelpiece painted black and brown and carved with curvilinear organic forms. It is flanked on the south by a cupboard of similar design as the one in the adjoining parlor. The walls have vertical board wainscoting below a chair rail, and there is some evidence that a staircase may have been along the east wall. There are two other doors in this room: one on the north wall leading outside and one on the east wall leading into a narrow hallway of the kitchen addition.

The narrow hallway contains two small rooms perhaps used for storage or for a pantry for the kitchen. The kitchen wing addition is fairly nondescript--the walls have the same wainscoting as described in the main section addition and the ceilings are much lower than the rest of the house.

A door on the south wall leads into the kitchen wing which contains a winder staircase and two rooms. In the east wall, the brick fireplace with a segmental arch of a double row of headers is flanked on the south by a cupboard. The winder staircase leads to a small late 19th century room (same details as kitchen addition) which in turn, leads into the east bedroom of the main section.

The Grounds The house was built on a gentle rise of land gracefully terraced down to what was once perhaps a horse and/or carriage drive. The land was shaped into a semicircle, the center point marked by a series of stone steps that probably led to the house.

Barns and other farm buildings of frame, stone and brick are located close to the house and bear investigation.

Colonel John Streett House  
8. Statement of Significance

## Continuation Sheet #3

Features in the house indicate that the house was more than likely built early in the first quarter of the century. Among others, the five bay main section with a central hall plan and a large staircase, is a design common to the 18th century. Both other features such as the procession of the staircase, the classical "McIntire" fireplaces, and simple architrave moldings indicate the influence that fashionable Annapolis must have had on John Streett. These features plus the brick jack arches, the transom light over the main door, the corbeled and molded brick cornices, etc., indicate a knowledge of sophisticated 19th cent. building techniques that were incorporated into the design of a more simple country residence.

Even though the house has been unoccupied for several years and was not properly cared for by previous tenants, it is in remarkably good condition for its age.

Footnotes

1. Milton C. Wright, Our Harford Heritage (Baltimore: French-Bray Printing Co., 1968), p. 421.
2. Liber JLG P, Folio 540, Land Records Office, Harford County Courthouse, Bel Air, Maryland.
3. Maryland Tax List, 1798; Harford County (Philadelphia: Rhistoric Publications, 1970), p. 6.
4. Ibid., p. 8., The other members of the family are not listed in the area in question.
5. Maryland Tax List, 1814; Harford County (Philadelphia: Rhistoric Publications, 1970, Copies for Diane Barnard by Mrs. Mary Bristow, Bel Air, MD.
6. Liber JLG P, Folio 540, op. cit. the names of "Clermont" and "Valenciennes" appear all the way through the title search whereas the tract "Addition to Deserted Lot" appears nowhere except on the 1814 tax assessment.

Secondary Sources

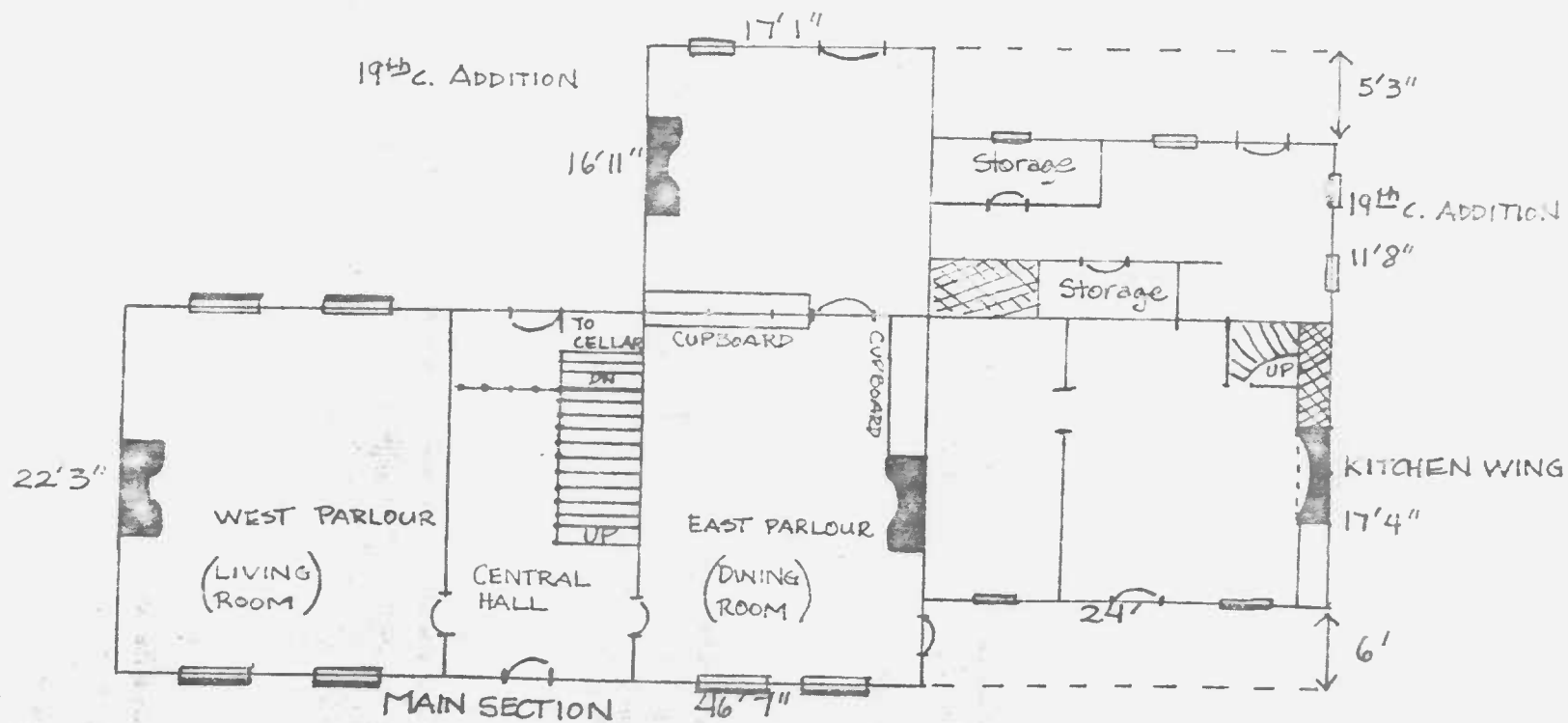
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McClure, Cicero P. and Roy R. McClure. Pioneer McClure Families.  
Akron: Superior Printing Company, 1924.  
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# Title Search

#A-1517

<u>Liber</u>	<u>Folio</u>	<u>Date</u>	
HDC 915 / 848		12/29/1972	Grantor: Bower C. Reeves, widower Grantee: James H. and Norma Lee Reeves 265 acres
CRG 438 / 26		6/24/1955	Grantor: Joseph M. Streett and Elin. M. Streett, wife Grantee: Bower C. Floretta T. Reeves, 276.38 acres "John A. Streett Farm"
SWC 223 / 393		6/25/1932	Grantor: William A. Streett, Trustee Grantee: Joseph M. Streett Elin. M. Streett Sum: \$15,000.00 285 acres "John A. Streett Farm"
ALJ 34 / 1		7/28/1876	Grantor: Joseph M. Streett, Trustee Grantee: John A. Streett 237 acres Part of "Home Farm of Abraham I. Streett" (Lot No. 1 in Equity case ALJ11/30)
ALJ 22 / 211		6/25/1869	Grantor: Joseph M. Streett, Trustee Grantee: Elizabeth Streett Sum: \$14,000.00 237 1/2 acres "Abraham Streett's Home Farm" (Lot No. 1)
HD 17 / 262		5/13/1834	Grantor: John Streett Grantee: Abraham I. Streett 300 acres "Clermont" and "Valenciennes"
JLG P / 540		11/17/1801	Grantor: Nathan Smith Grantee: John Streett Sum: 1220 100 acres "Clermont" 103 1/2 acres "Part of Valenciennes"
JLP P / 540		6/2/1792	Grantor by Patent: State of Maryland Grantee: Nathan Smith 200 acres "Clermont"
JLP P / 540		5/9/1795	Grantor by Patent: State of Maryland Grantee: Nathan Smith 103 1/2 acres "Part of Valenciennes"

1st Floor



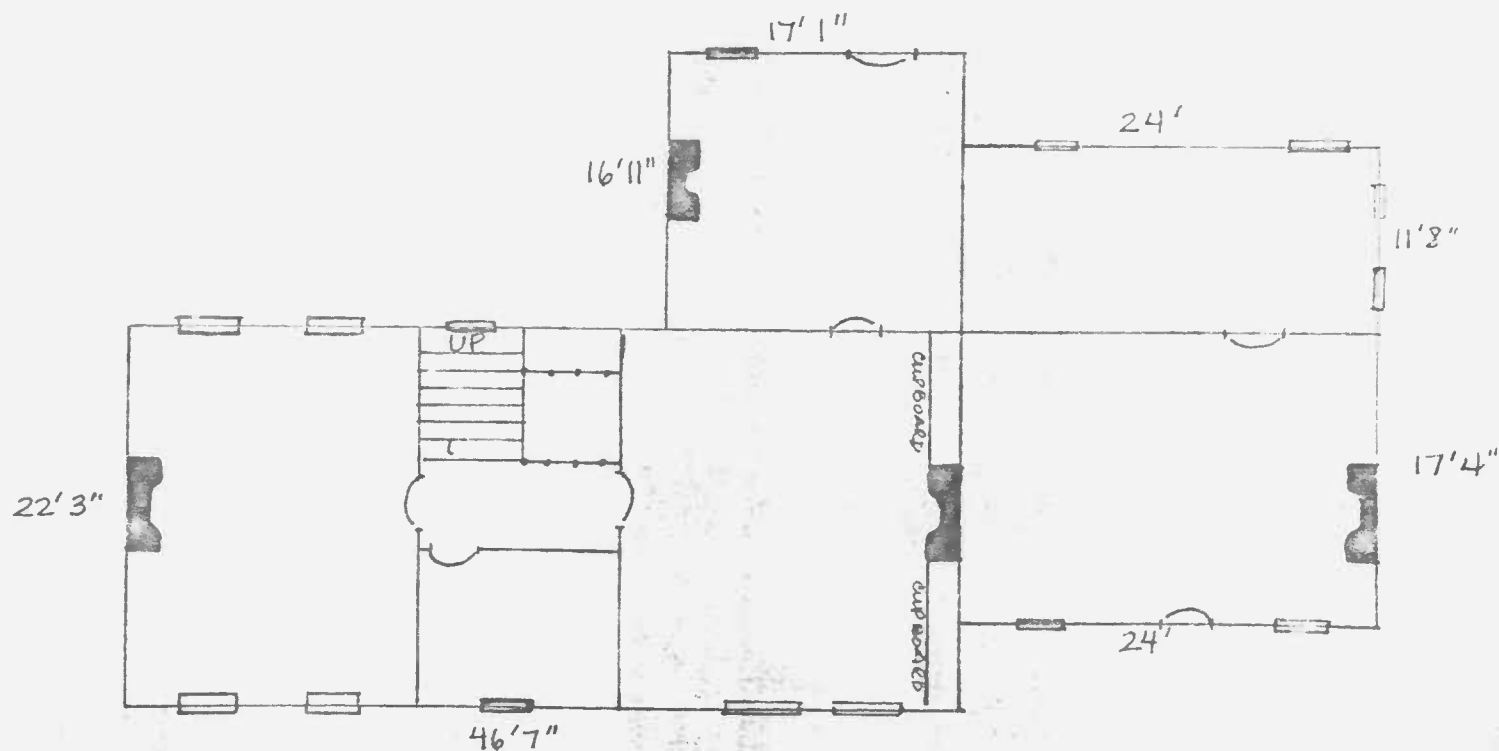
$\frac{3}{32}'' = 1'$

The dimensions of the house are drawn to scale but the rooms and their architectural features are not drawn to scale.



HA-1517

2<sup>nd</sup> floor

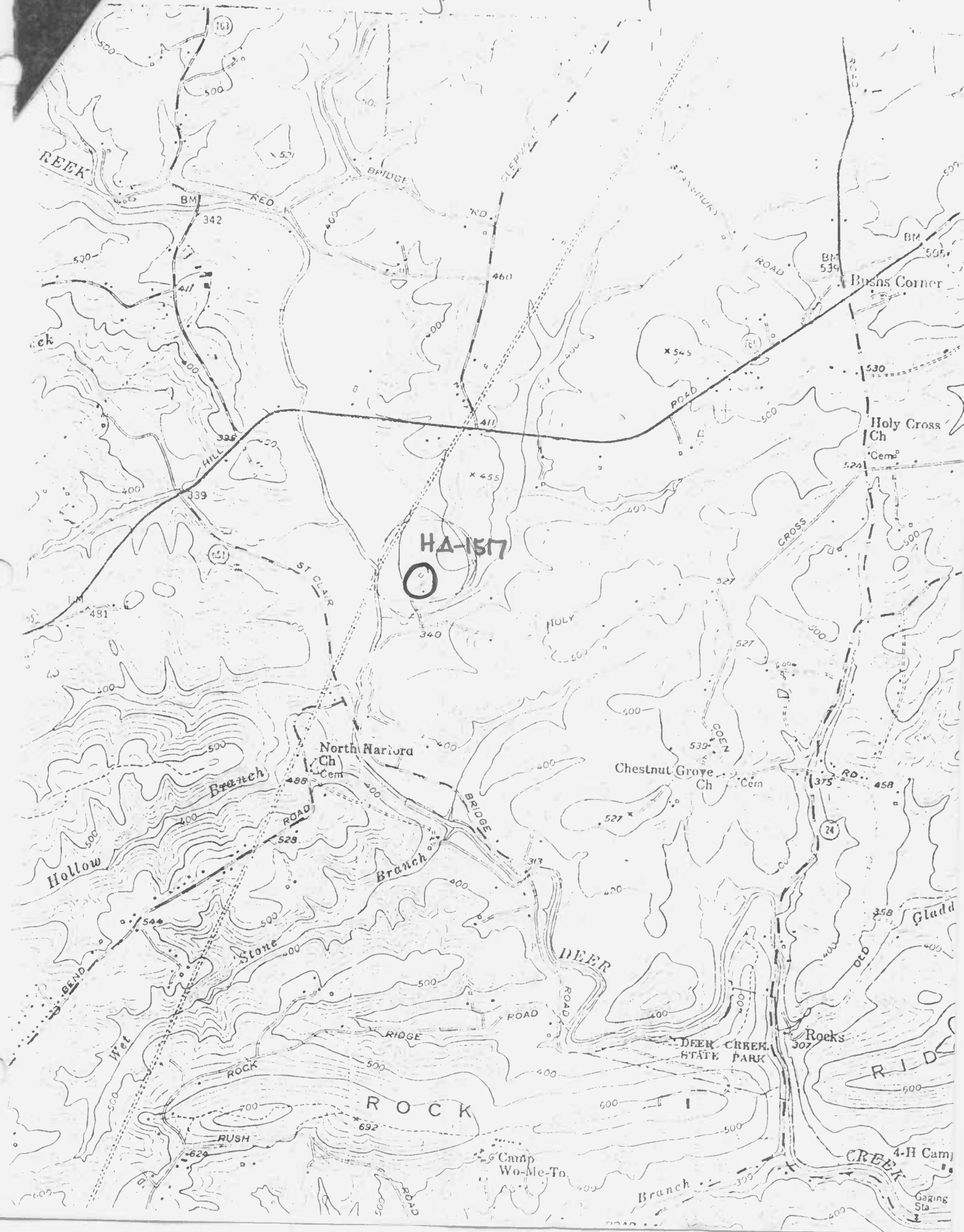


$\frac{3}{32}" = 1'$  The dimensions of the house are drawn to scale but the rooms and their architectural features are not to scale.



NA-1517

Section of house on the hill  
Fawn Grove Quadrangle: USGS Map







C. I. John Street House

HA-1517

Hartford Co. Md.

C. Weeks

12/89

Hartford Co. Maryland 2000 Dept.

House built SE

2/11



Col John Streett House

HA-1517

Hartford County, Md.

C Woods

12/89

Hart Co Planning & Zoning Dept

View West from house

1/11



Col John Streett House

HA-1517

Harford Co., MD

C. Creek

12/89

Harford Co. Dept of Planning & Zoning

Harford Co. SW

3/11



Col John Street House

HA 1517

Hartford County, MD

C Brooks

12/89

Hartford Co Dept of Planning & Zoning

Detail: Kitchen door

4/11





Col John Street House

HA-1517

Hart Co. MD

C. Crooks

2/89

Hart Co. Dept of Planning & Zoning

Detail: Main door

5/11



Cd John Street House

RA 1517

H<sub>0</sub>, L<sub>1</sub> (0, MD)

C. Woods

12189

Hochst. Co. Dept. of Planning & Zoning

Date: 5/20/2024

10/11



Col. John Street House

WA-1517

Hartford Co., MD.

C. Weeks

12/89

Hartford Co. Dept. of Planning & Zoning

Dining Room

7/11



Col John Stought House

WA-1517

Hartford Co, MD

C. Cooke

12/89

Hartford Co Dept of Planning & Zoning

2 marked and mounted

8/11





Cul John Streett House

HA 1517

Hartford Co, MD

C Weeks

12/89

Hartford Co Dept of Planning & Zoning

Parlor door w/ Mahogany graining

9/11



Col John Streett House

HA 1517

Harford Co, MD.

C Weeks

12/89

Harford Co. Dept of Planning & Zoning

Parker

10/11



Col. John Streett House

HA-1517

Harford Co., MD

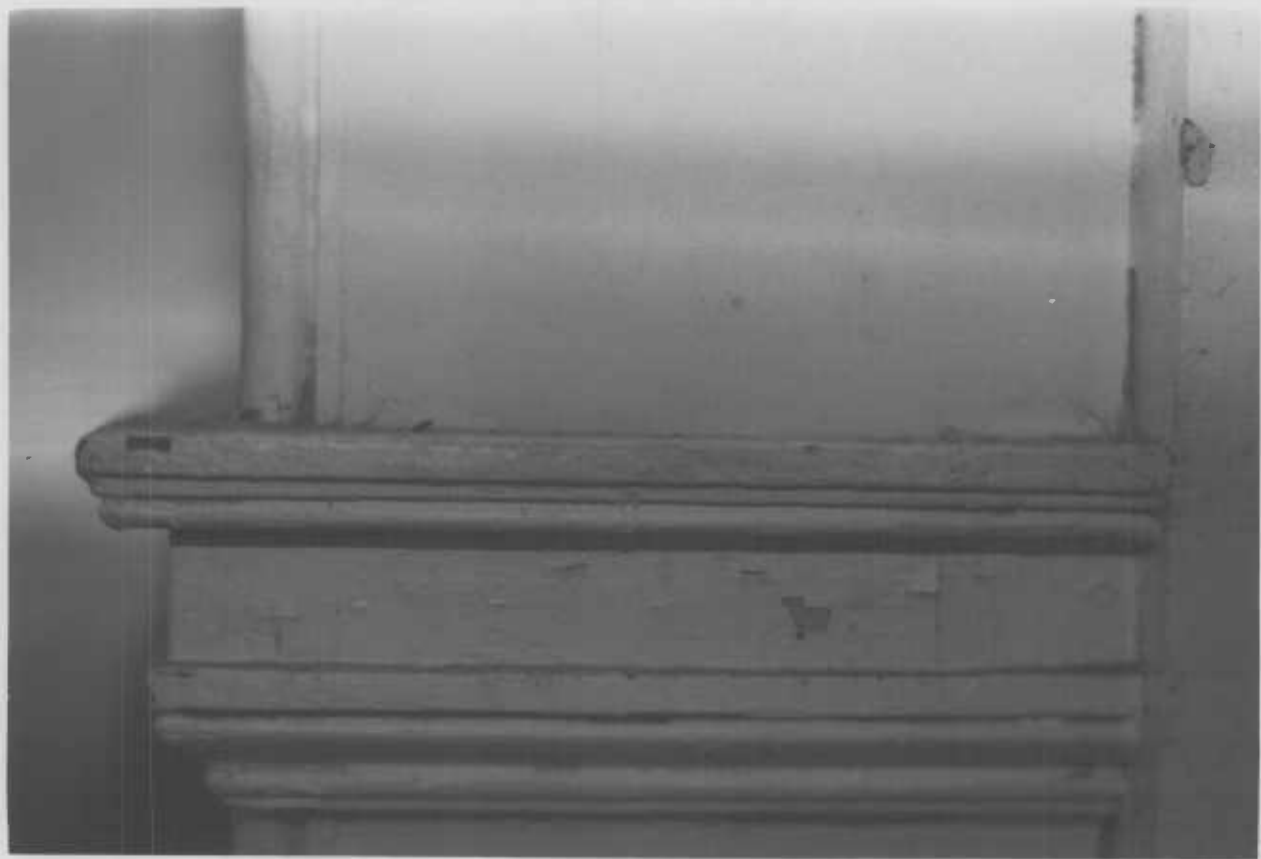
C. Weeks


12/89

Harford Co. Dept of Planning & Zoning

Star

11/17





Col. John Street House  
Holy Cross Road  
Street, Maryland 21154  
D. Barnard Oct. '79  
Architrave Trim

HA-1515





HA-1517

Col. John Streett House  
Holy Cross Road  
Street, Maryland 21154  
D. Barnard  
Oct. 1979  
Southeast



HA-1517

Col. John Street House  
Holy Cross Road  
Street, Md. 21154  
D. Barnard  
Oct. 1979  
North Elevation



Col. John Street House  
Holy Cross Road  
Street, Maryland 21154  
D. Barnard  
Kitchen Fireplace Oct. 1979

HA-1515  
HA-1517



HA-1517

Col. John Streett House  
Holy Cross Road  
Street, Md. 21154  
D. Barnard  
Southeast Oct. 1979